

# INSTRUCTIONS

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*The Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Lauder, to their Commissioner in Parliament, in relation to the Union proposed betwixt the Kingdoms of Scotland and England.*

**A**T Lauder, the 23<sup>d</sup>. day of October 1706 Years, The whilk day the Baillies and Town Council of the Burgh of Lauder being convened in Council within the Tolbooth of the said Burgh, having received an Letter directed to them from the right Honourable Sir Samuel Mackcletlan, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October instant, calling and indicting an General Convention of the Royal Burrows, to be holden and sit at Edinburgh upon the 29<sup>th</sup>. day of this instant October, and intreating us to send an Commissioner to the said Convention fully instructed in relation to the Union proposed betwixt the Kingdoms of Scotland and England, &c. as the said Letter bears. And the said Letter, with the Articles of the said proposed Union being both *verbatim* publickly read, in presence of the Baillies and Council, and hail other Burgeses Inhabitants of the said Burgh, allowed by the Bailies and Council in this so great Concern, to be there present, and to give their Opinions. It was unanimously agreed to by the Baillies and Council, with consent of their Neighbouring Burgeses, That Sir David Cunninghame of Milncraig Knight Baronet, and their Commissioner and Representative in this present Parliament, should be their Commissioner in the foresaid General Convention of Burrows, in the Terms of their Commission of the Date hereof. And being fully convinced, that Albeit their Commission for representing them in this current Parliament, be conceived in the most full and ample Terms imaginable, Yet the same can never impower him to act or vote any thing which may tend to the imparing or subverting, or altering any manner of way his Constituents Constitution, Rights, or Priviledges, without their particular and unanimous Consent given him for that effect. And having likewise seriously considered the severall and particular Articles of the said proposed Union, and that they look upon themselves as bound in duty at this time to give their Opinion in relation to the Union proposed, Do therefore unanimously give it as their humble Opinion, That the Devolving of the Power of the Scots Parliament into the hands of a small Number of Lords, Barons, and Burrows allowed by the said proposed Articles to sit and Vote with the hail Lords and Commons of England, in a Parliament to be called, *The Parliament of Great Britain*, Is Dishonourable and Prejudicial to the Kingdom of Scotland, tending to the Destruction of their Ancient Constitution, and all their Rights and Priviledges as a free People in general, and to every Individual Person and Society within the same, Especially that of the Burrows; Therefore, unless it shall be first Agreed to, in this present Parliament, or any other before the said Union, That the Scots Parliament shall continue in all time hereafter as formerly, and the Laws and Subjects of Scotland, shall be only subjected to the Wisdom of a Scots Parliament, constitute according to the Laws of the said Kingdom. The said Baillies and Council, with consent of their Burgeses, have Impowered, Authorized and Required, and hereby Impower, Authorize and Require the said Sir David Cunningham, their Commissioner in this present Parliament, for them, and in their Names and Behalf, in open and plain Parliament, by his Vote to Dissent to, and Disapprove of, all and every one of the Articles of the said proposed Union; And in case the said Sir David shall not follow and obey these our Instructions; We protest, That his Vote in the contrar thereof, is null, being not only contrar to his Constituents their Instructions; but likewise, Tending to the Imparing and Subverting of their Constitution and Priviledges: But in case it shall be first agreed to, by this or any succeeding Parliament, that this and the succeeding Parliaments shall continue as formerly, We then promise to give him, or any other our Commissioner for the time, our particular Instructions, as to the other severall Articles of the said proposed Union. And that this our Opinion and Proceedings, may be made known to our Brethren, the other Royal Burrows, we have ordained thir presents, to be publickly Printed and Dispersed amongst them; In testimony whereof, the said Sir David Cunningham his Commission to the Royal Burrows, and these his Instructions to the Parliament, being Subscribed by the Bailies, in presence of, and at Command of the Council, are Extracted furth of the Town Court Books of the Burgh of Lauder, by Mark Henderson common Clerk of the samen, and the common Seal of the said Burgh is hereto Affixed.

*Sic Subscribitur;*

M. Henderson Clerk.